## *The Inside Track* – July 19, 2013

## Major milestone: contractor selected

The City of Kansas City, Mo., has named the team led by heavy contractor Herzog Contracting Corp. and rail contractor Stacy and Witbeck Inc. as the contractor for the downtown streetcar project.

The city now begins the due diligence process of reviewing the contract submitted by Herzog/Witbeck and hopes to have them under contract in about four weeks. Construction is expected to start late this summer with utility relocation.

Herzog is a St. Joseph-based heavy contractor that has worked on local projects including those with the Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation and national projects including those with Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Witbeck is a California-based rail contractor that has worked on several similar projects in Portland and Seattle and is currently working on projects in Dallas and Salt Lake City.

The contractor will be responsible for:

- Relocating city-owned underground utilities
- Coordinating with private utilities to move their utilities
- Building the vehicle maintenance facility, the streetcar track, and station stops.

## Frequently asked questions

The streetcar hotline (816-822-3011) and email address (info@kcstreetcar.org) continue to receive questions and comments which might be of interest to the general public.

A sampling of some of those questions and the responses are below.

**How is the rider experience being developed and considered?**
In several ways. The Kansas City Streetcar Authority (KCSA) has determined that the system will be run without a fare, to minimize stop times and maximize economic benefits to riders. The City, design team, and KCSA, in consultation with stakeholders, are currently considering streetcar stop design, vehicle interior configuration and other elements of the rider experience.

**What will the streetcar look like?**
The exact make and model have not been finalized, but the vehicle will be a sleek, modern streetcar –

much different from the vintage trolleys seen in some other cities. Paint colors, interior layout, etc. are yet to be defined by the City and Kansas City Streetcar Authority.

**How will the streetcar stops be spaced?**
Streetcars are designed to be "pedestrian accelerators." Their function is to provide local circulation. The bus system brings people to and from Downtown, and the streetcar will help distribute them. Spacings of every few blocks are typical of modern streetcar systems in a downtown area.

**How will construction impact me?**
Building a streetcar line is different from building a road or even light-rail transit. Construction will be completed in segments (perhaps 2-3 blocks at a time), and the City will work with business owners and residents along the route to minimize disruptions.

**Where will the vehicle maintenance facility be located?**
Construction is planned just east of the River Market area.

**Where are expansions planned?**
The current line is being viewed as a starter line. The City has initiated a study with multiple routes and options, including: an extension of the starter line from Crown Center to the Country Club Plaza or the University of Missouri – Kansas City; routes going to eastern Kansas City; and a route to the western part of the city, among others. Also, the City of North Kansas City, KCMO, MARC, and MoDOT have initiated a joint study to look at a route traveling north of the Missouri River.

A full list of FAQs can be found on the website: http://www.kcstreetcar.org/kc-streetcar-faqs.htm.

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